

**Amendment 5 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery off the Atlantic States
(Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5)**

***Frequently Asked Questions
March 2014***

What is would Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 do?

- Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 would increase the acceptable biological catch estimates, annual catch limits, and recreational annual catch targets for dolphin and wahoo.
- The revisions incorporate updates to the recreational data for these species, as per the new Marine Recreational Information Program as well as revisions to commercial and for-hire landings.
- Accountability measures for dolphin and wahoo would be revised to include a pay-back provision, in addition to an in-season closure.
- Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 would add annual catch limits, acceptable biological catch control rule, accountability measures, the Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review process for stock assessments, and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee's review of the stock assessments to the framework procedure.
- Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 would also allow acceptable biological catch estimates, annual catch limits, and recreational annual catch targets for dolphin and wahoo to be modified using an abbreviated framework procedure to shorten the time it would take to make routine changes to harvest limits in response to new information from a stock assessment.
- A framework procedure is an administrative action that allows adjustments to harvest levels and management measures to be modified in an efficient manner.

Why is Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 necessary?

- NOAA Fisheries no longer uses the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey and now estimates recreational landings using the Marine Recreational Information Program.

What are the revised numbers?

| Stock or Stock Complex Name | Revised values under Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|--|
| | Acceptable biological catch (pounds whole weight) | Commercial allocations (percent) | Commercial annual catch limit (pounds whole weight) | Recreational allocations (percent) | Recreational annual catch limit (pounds whole weight) | Recreational annual catch target (pounds whole weight) |
| Dolphin | 15,344,846 | 7.54 | 1,157,001 | 92.46 | 14,187,845 | 12,769,061 |
| Wahoo | 1,794,960 | 3.93 | 70,542 | 96.07 | 1,724,418 | 1,258,825 |

Who would be affected by Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5?

- Commercial and recreational fishers who fish for dolphin and wahoo in federal waters (3-200 miles offshore), off Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

When might Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 be effective?

- Following the comment periods on the notice of availability and proposed rule, a final rule would be published, and regulations could be effective by Summer 2014.

How can I comment on the Notice of Availability for Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 and its Proposed Rule?

- NOAA Fisheries is accepting comments on the notice of availability for Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 from February 28, 2014, to April 29, 2014, and from March 14, 2014, to April 14, 2014, on its proposed rule.
- Comments on Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 and its proposed rule can be submitted electronically via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2013-0170, click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. Written comments can be submitted to the address below.

Where can I get more information on Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 and its Proposed Rule?

- Contact: NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office
By Mail: c/o Nikhil Mehta, Sustainable Fisheries Division
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
By FAX: (727) 824-5308
By Phone: (727) 824-5305
- Dolphin Wahoo Amendment 5 and its Proposed Rule may be found online at the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office Web site at: http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/dw/2013/am5/index.html or the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Web site at: <http://www.safmc.net>.